

NOTE ON THE REPRODUCTIVE BIOLOGY OF THE RING-TAILED DRAGON

(*Chelosania brunnea*)

By R. Pengilley*

A gravid female of the Ring-tailed Dragon (*Chelosania brunnea*) was collected by G. Miles at Jabiru, N.T., on 7 August, 1975. On 13 August, 1975, six eggs were laid in sand at a depth of 14 cm. Five eggs were weighed and measured on 14 August, 1975; the sixth was preserved in 10% formalin. Since eight young hatched on 14 September, 1975 an additional three eggs must have been laid soon after 13 August. These eggs, however, were not weighed or measured.

The five eggs examined were creamish, elongated and distinctly rounded at each end. Mean weight, length and width of these five eggs, together with plus or minus twice the standard error of these parameters were, respectively: 1.7 ± 0.004 (range 1.6 - 1.8 g); 21.0 ± 0.18 (range 20.3 -

21.5 mm) and 12.1 ± 0.21 (range 11.8 - 12.9 mm).

The snout-vent length of the female was not recorded. However, her body weight after laying six eggs was 21.3 g.

Mean hatchling weight, snout-vent length and total tail length of eight hatchlings were, respectively; 1.48 ± 0.0008 (range 1.45 - 1.55 g); 39.3 ± 0.21 (range 38.5 - 40.0 mm); and 44.8 ± 1.18 (range 42.2 - 46.5 mm). Seven of the eight hatchlings had six dark bands on the tail, whilst the eighth had seven. On two of the seven hatchlings the sixth, or last, dark band was indistinct.

* Wildlife Research
Conservation Commission
P.O. Box 38496
Winnellie N.T.